BRIDGEND URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

AND

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES,

FOR THE YEAR 1897.

WYNDHAM RANDALL,
Medical Officer of Health.

MORGAN WILLIAMS,
Sanitary Inspector.

BRIDGEND:
PRINTED AT THE "GLAMORGAN GAZETTE" OFFICE

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The Bridgend Urban District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bridgend Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my report for the year 1897, and to lay before you the usual Tables of vital statistics.

The district has hitherto been said to contain 629 acres, but from returns at the Union I have had access to, I believe the area to be approximately 758 acres, with a density of population 8·40 per acre. This point will be settled definitely by the forthcoming ordinance survey.

THE POPULATION.

The population of the district has been estimated at 6370, estimated in the same manner as in 1896, and it is on this estimate that the statistical returns have been constructed.

HOUSES OCCUPIED, &c., IN THE PARISHES:—

Parishes.	Occupied.	Vacant.	Totals.	Population.
Oldcastle	916	71	987	4763
Newcastle	309	14	323	1607
District	1225	85	1310	6370

You will notice that the populations is less than in the previous year, and that a greater number of houses are vacant; this is due to the fact that the work on the Vale of Glamorgan Railway was completed by the end of the summer and the men engaged left the town.

BIRTHS.

The Births registered during the year were 199; of these 98 were males and 101 females.

The five births in the Workhouse are included in the above return. Five females.

The birth-rate was 31·2 per 1000 persons living, as compared with 29·7, the rate of England and Wales.

Table I. shows the population, the births, the deaths, and the excess of births over deaths annually.

TABLE I.

Year.	Population.	Births	Deaths.	Excess of Deaths.	Excess of Births.
1891	4896	145	129	Nil.	16
1892	4896	154	92	,,	62
1893	5146	163	68	,,	97
1894	5426	181	87	,,	94
1895	6136	214	132	,,	82
1896	6458	186	108	,,	78
1897	6370	199	107	,,	92

Table II. shows the comparisons of births and deaths in the district in successive years.

TABLE II.

Year.	Births.	Birth-rate per 1000 living.	Deaths from all causes.	Death-rate per 1000 living,	Zymotic Death-rate per 1000.	Death-rate under one year per 1000.	
						Bridgend.	England and Wales.
1891	145	29·6	129	26·3	0·8	138·0	150
1892	154	31·4	92	18·7	1·4	110·4	149
1893	163	32·0	68	13·2	1·5	139·3	159
1894	181	33·3	87	15·0	0·9	99·4	137
1895	214	34·8	132	21·5	3·5	172·8	161
1896	186	28·8	108	16·7	1·0	166·6	148
1897	199	31·2	107	16·7	0·9	135·6	156
Means.	177·4	31·6	103·3	18·3	1·4	137·4	151·4

Table III. shows the comparisons of births and deaths in the Parishes of Oldcastle and Newcastle in 1897.

TABLE III.

Year 1887.	Births.	Birth-rate per 1000	Deaths from all causes.	Death-rate per 1000.	Zymotic Death-rate per 1030.	Deaths under one year per 1000.	
						Bridgend.	England and Wales.
Oldcastle. ..	158	33·3	91	19·10	0·62	139·2	.....
Newcastle ..	41	25·5	16	9·95	1·86	121·9	.....
District..	199	31·2	107	16·79	0·94	135·6	15·6

DEATHS.

During the year 1897, 107 deaths were registered in the district, of these 58 were males and 49 females. The excess of births over deaths being 92.

The death-rate was equal to 16·7 per 1000 of population, as compared with 16·7 in 1896.

The rate for England and Wales in 1897 was 17·4.

The deaths from zymotic diseases during the same period were 6, the death-rate per 1000 persons living was 0·94, as compared with 1·0 in 1896.

The rate in England and Wales in 1897 was 2·15.

At the Workhouse 25 deaths were registered duuring the year, of these 24 were males and 1 female. The excess of deaths over births being 20.

The daily average number of inmates was 112. The death-rate 223·2 per 1000. The 25 deaths at the Workhouse among an average daily population of 112 are included in the total deaths on which the mortality rates are based.

THE BRIDGEND URBAN DISTRICT.

Area in acres 758. Density, 8·40

1891.	1897.
Population, 4896.	6370 (estimated).

Birth-rate, 31·2; Death-rate, 16·7; Infant death-rate, 135·6; Zymotic death-rate, 0·9; Phthisis death-rate, 1·2; Respiratory death-rate 3·6.

The number of inquests held was 7. In Oldcastle 6, in Newcastle 1.

The deaths at all ages were:—

Under 1 year	27
One year and under five years ...	10
Five and under fifteen years ...	4
Fifteen and under twenty-five years	4
Twenty-five and under sixty-five years	36
Sixty five years and upwards ...	26
	107

Table IV. shows the chief causes of death amongst infants under one year of age.

TABLE IV.

Causes of Deaths.	Deaths under one year.
Diarrhœa	1
Tuberculosis	1
Prematurity	4
Other Congenital Defects	1
Diseases of the Nervous System	4
Diseases of the Respiratory System	7
Diseases of the Digestive System	7
Violence	1
Ill-defined Causes	1
Total	27

Table V. shows the number of deaths registered in each Parish during the year.

TABLE V.

Parishes.	Zymotic Diseases.	Parasitic Diseases.	Digestive Diseases.	Constitutional Diseases.	Developmental Diseases.	Local Diseases.	Violence.	Ill-defined, &c.	Total.	Death rate per 1000.
Oldcastle	3	..	8	16	5	53	4	2	91	19.1
Newcastle	3	..	3	..	..	10	..	..	16	9·9
District	6	..	11	16	5	63	4	2	107	16·7

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The 107 deaths from all causes included:—

2 attributed to Enteric Fever.
1 ,, ,, Whooping Cough.
3 ,, ,, Diarrhœa.

During the year 55 cases of infectious diseases were reported to me by Medical Practitioners under the provisions of The Infectious Diseases Notification Act.

Table VI. shows the number of cases reported under the Notification Act and the deaths during each month of the year 1897.

TABLE VI.

Months.	Variola.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Enteric Fever.		Erysipelas.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.
January	..	..	..	...	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3
February	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	4
March.. .. .	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	6
April..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
May	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
June	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
July	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	1	3
August	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	.	..
September	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	7	..	..	..	11
October	..	..	..	4	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	6
November...	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	15
December	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	3
Year 1897	..	4	..	20	..	5	2	19	..	7	2	55

There were in addition to the above, one death from Whooping Cough in May, and one death from Diarrhœa in February and two in August.

Table of Deaths during the Year 1897, in the **BRIDGEND URBAN DISTRICT**, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	Mortality from all Causes, at Subjoined Ages.								Mortality from subjoined causes distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.									
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards		Smallpox.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
Parish of Oldcastle ...								Under 5			1	1		12		1	16	31
	91	22	7	4	4	35	19	5 upwards				1	8	10	13	3	25	60
Parish of Newcastle ..								Under 5		1		1		2			4	8
	16	5	3	..	..	1	7	5 upwards		1				1	1		5	8
District Totals								Under 5		1	1	2		14		1	20	39
	107	27	10	4	4	36	26	5 upwards		1		1	8	11	14	3	30	68

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.

Area in acres, 758. Population (1891), 4,896. Estimated to middle of 1896,6,370.

Death Rates { General 16·79 per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1897.
Infants (under one year of age), 135·67 per 1000 Births Registered.

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the BRIDGEND URBAN DISTRICT, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Notice of Localities adapted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Estimated Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.					Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.
	Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1897.			Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Erysipelas.	Small-pox.
Oldcastle	3615	4763	158	Under 5	..	10	1	..	..	..
				5 upwds.	4	7	4	15	4	4
Newcastle	1281	1607	41	Under 5	..	3	..	1	..	..
				5 upwds	..	..	..	3	3	..
Totals	4896	6370	199	Under 5	..	13	1	1	..	..
				5 upwds	4	7	4	18	7	4

"Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District since May, 1893. The Bridgend Small-pox Hospital is used by the Sick of the District.

Table VII. shows the distribution of infectious diseases notified, and deaths due to the same in each parish.

TABLE VII.

Parishes.	Notifiable Diseases.											
	Variola.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Enteric Fever.		Erysipelas.		Total.	
	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.
Oldcastle ..	..	4	..	17	..	5	..	15	..	4	..	45
Newcastle..	..	..	..	3	..	.	2	4	..	3	2	10
District	..	4	..	20	..	5	2	19	..	7	2	55

In addition to the above there were in Oldcastle one death from Whooping Cough and two from Diarrhœa.

In Newcastle one from Diarrhœa.

SMALL POX.

1.—On 17th March, William Smith was admitted to the Workhouse from the Tramp Ward, and was found to be suffering from Small Pox. He was admitted to the Small Pox Hospital on 18th March, a nurse having been telegraphed for.

Several of the occupants of the same ward, who would submit to it, were vaccinated.

2.—But on the 29th March, David Howells was removed to the Hospital, and on the 3rd April, John Williams, both suffering from Small Pox.

3.—The first patient could not or would not give the address he had been living at for the last three or four weeks. so that the Medical Officer of Health of the locality where he was affected could not be communicated with. The tramp ward and sick ward were disinfected.

The incubation periods of the two latter patients appear to have been 11 days and 13 days respectively.

4.—The Penybont District Surveyor who lived at Bridgend, also contracted Small Pox, he was infected through disinfecting a house at Pencoed. He was removed to Hospital 27th April. His wife was vaccinated, her person and clothing disinfected, and she went home to her parents. The house disinfected. All the patients had been vaccinated in infancy, only, except one vaccinated after infection had taken place.

There was no death.

SCARLET FEVER.

No death was registered from Scarlet Fever, and none were registered in 1896, 1895, nor 1894.

The number of cases notified was 20, as compared with 32 in 1896, 10 in 1895, and 7 in 1894.

The distribution of the deaths and cases in the district will be seen in Tables VI. and VII. On an outbreak of Scarlet Fever being notified, the masters of Schools in the district, and the parents of the infected persons were communicated with and advised as to isolation and disinfection, as is customary.

DIPHTHERIA.

No deaths were registered from Diphtheria, nor in 1896, 1 death in 1895.

The number of cases notified was 5, none in 1896, and 6 in 1895.

School Masters and parents were advised as to isolation and disinfection, and the drains flushed with disinfectants.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Two deaths were attributed to Enteric Fever, as compared with 2 in 1896, 4 in 1895, and 3 in 1894.

Nineteen cases of Enteric Fever were certified, as compared with 23 in 1896, 12 Enteric and 3 Continued Fever in 1895, and 14 Enteric and 8 Continued Fever in 1894.

The 19 cases of Enteric Fever occured in the first, third, and fourth quarters in the year, viz; 3 in January, 3 in July, 7 in September, 1 in October, 3 in November, and 2 in December.

They occurred, as is usual in Bridgend, in different streets and in parts of the town considerably apart.

Each invaded house and premises were inspected, and all defects hat could be detected were remedied.

Directions were given as to disinfection of the motions and urine, and as to the disinfection of soiled clothing.

Arrangements are now all but completed for the habitual use of the steam disinfector.

The W C's. and Drains were flushed with a disinfectant.

Enquiries as to the water, milk, and food supplies were made in each case, and suspicion as to any of these was reasonably excluded.

1.—Nine of the 19 cases occurred in houses, situate on the higher elevations or on the outskirts of the town, and at a distance from the river.

2.—Five cases were distributed in 5 different streets, one case only in each of the 5 streets.

One case in Church Road, 1 case in Elder Street, 1 case in Jenkin Street, 1 case in Mackworth Street, and 1 case near West Street.

Six cases occured in Nolton Street, 3 on the Craig, Newcastle Hill, 3 in Oddfellow's Row, and 2 in the Rhiew.

3 —Ten of the cases broke out in houses where no obvious Sanitary defect was noticeable, 3 cases were associated with choked drain, 1 with foul privy, and 5 with drainage defects.

With respect to what I wrote in my report for 1895, as to the beneficial effect of heavy rain and flood flushing the drains and sewers, in 1897 these were absent or lessened in amount, so I am inclined to attribute the continuance of Enteric Fever to the diminished average of rainfall through the year, and the unusually high temperature affecting the general pollution of the ground, and neutralizing the usual result of the cold weather in destroying the poison.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

No death from Puerperal Fever was registered. Two cases were notified.

ERYSIPELAS.

No death. Eight cases were notified as compared with 5 in 1896, 4 in 1895, and 1 in 1894.

INFLUENZA.

No deaths attributed to influenza were registered.

Prevalence of influenza began in November, increased in December, and culminated in a storm of cases in February and March, 1898, much more wide-spread than in any previous year, including 1879 and 1880.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.

No schools were closed during 1897.

THE BAKE-HOUSES and SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

These were inspected. Improvement is possible in both.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply was, as usual, satisfactory and plentiful.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

The general sanitary state of the district has been improved.

Building operations still continue, but not to the same extent as in the previous year.

Cottages in Nolton Street have been re-built, but I regret that the building was not put further back, so as to allow room for a proper pavement on the side walk. I presume this was not possible. The houses in Nolton Passage have been closed, and are now razed to the ground, leaving space for new buildings.

Three cottages in Chapel Street, four houses in the Square, Newcastle and a block of back-to-back houses on the Craig, Newcastle should be closed; in one of the latter a case of Puerperal Septicæmia occurred.

Some old cottages at the top of Park Street have been condemned as unfit; they appear to be undergoing repair. Also the wretched dwellings in the Gwtta are still occupied.

I said in my report for 1896, "The time has arrived when the question of the increase of the area of this Urban District should be taken into consideration. Houses are built, and probably others will soon be built, in several directions outside the present boundary. No building bye-laws are in operation in regard to these houses, and serious sanitary defects are liable to arise in consequece of the absence of supervision. This matter, it is well, that you have seriously taken into consideration.

PERMANENT & PRIVATE IMPROVEMENTS.

These will be found detailed in the Surveyor's Report.

REQUIREMENTS.

1.—A System of Sewerage.—This is at present in the hands of an eminent Engineer, and plans, specifications, &c., will be submitted shortly to the Local Government Board.

2.—Brook Street, Road behind Coity Road, and the Craig, Newcastle to be properly made.

3.—Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, and Bye-Laws under Section 23 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, as to the proper flushing of W.Cs. and the paving of back yards, courts, &c.

4.—The closure of the dilapidated and insanitary dwellings named previously.

5.—A hot air destructor, and covered iron buckets for the removal of infected excreta.

The Isolation Hospital has not yet been erected for the combined Hospital District.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,
WYNDHAM RANDALL,
Medical Officer of Health.

Bridgend, 23rd March, 1898.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE,
BRIDGEND,
10th February, 1898.

To the Bridgend Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Fifth Annual Report of the Sanitary Works executed under your authority during the year ending December, 1897.

NEW HOUSES.

Forty-five new houses have been inspected and certified fit for habitation.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

I have frequently inspected the slaughter houses and they are kept clean, but a number of complaints have been made of the stench from the removal of filth during the day time. This will be remedied when the bye-laws dealing with nuisances of this kind are finally adopted.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In all cases that were notified, the houses were inspected and any defects found were remedied, and disinfectants supplied gratis.

DAIRIES and COWSHEDS.

Two old cowsheds have been replaced with new and are a considerable improvement. I found all dairies and vessels were kept clean.

BAKEHOUSES.

These have been frequently inspected and some were not kept so clean as they might be. In one case I found the milk and margarine stored in the Water Closet, the Company have since taken additional premises so as to provide proper storage room for their goods.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The sanitary arrangements of the Catholic School have been re-arranged, new drains laid and connected to the public sewer, the privies replaced with water closets. Upon my recommendation Revd. Father White used the Pedestal Basins each furnished with a flushing cistern, they are far superior and cleaner than the Satrines or Trough Closets which are frequently foul and offensive.

Action taken for the Abatement of Nuisances, &c.

The total number of houses inspected were 228.
The following is a record of notices served :—

25 Preliminary Notices for the abatement of Nuisances.

19 Legal Notices for the abatement of Nuisances.

14 Legal Notices for the provision of efficient Water Closets.

5 Legal Notices for the provision of New Drains

11 Legal Notices for reconstructing defective Drains under Sec. 41 Public Health Act, 1875.

5 Legal Notices under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1890 and 95

7 Legal Notices requiring premises to be made fit for habitation under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.

In five cases it was necessary to apply for Magistrates' aid.

39 Defective House Drains were cleared from obstruction and repaired.

7 Defective House Drains reconstructed.

51 New Drains have been provided.

13 Unventilated Drains ventilated with 4 inch shafts.

17 Drains provided with Fresh Air Inlets.

76 Defective Traps removed and replaced with Stoneware Gully Traps.

68 Defective W.C. pans removed and replaced with new.

70 W.C's. provided with flushing cisterns and water laid on.

3 New W.C's. have been erected.

27 Cesspools have been filled in.

48 House Drains connected to the public sewer.

6 Back Yards have been paved.

9 Nuisances abated caused by stable manure.

13 Dwelling-houses have been closed as unfit for human occupation. 3 were closed by order of the Justices, the remainder were closed voluntarily, two of these have been made fit for habitation and five pulled down and re-erected.

SEWERS and NEW STREETS.

The sewer on the north side of Grove Road was extended to Coychurch Road, by a length of 457 feet of 12 inch pipes and 253 feet of 9 inch pipes with 3 manholes, one flushing chamber and two 6 inch ventilating columns.

The sewer on the south of Grove Road was extended to the Catholic Schools by a length of 161 feet of 9 inch pipes and one flushing chamber.

Four back roads adjoining South and St. Marie Streets have been sewered and metalled, total length 778 feet.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. WILLIAMS,

Surveyor and Inspector.